



**United States Attorney's Office
District of Columbia**

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PRESS RELEASE

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Man Found Guilty Of Multiple Counts For Sexually Abusing His Three Biological Daughters Over Ten Year Period

WASHINGTON - A 47-year-old D.C. man, Gregory Simmons, was found guilty on Friday, June 4, 2010, of sexually abusing his three biological daughters over the course of a ten year period, U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen announced today. Simmons was found guilty by a D.C. Superior Court Jury of First Degree Sexual Abuse with Aggravating Circumstances, Attempted First Degree Sexual Abuse with Aggravating Circumstances, three Counts of First Degree Child Sexual Abuse with Aggravating Circumstances, and two counts of Incest. The defendant is scheduled to be sentenced before the Honorable Gerald I. Fisher on September 2, 2010, where he is facing an aggregate sentence of 798 to 2412 months incarceration under the D.C. Superior Court voluntary sentencing guidelines.

According to the government's evidence at trial, the defendant repeatedly sexually abused his four biological daughters for approximately ten years. Before, during or after abusing his daughters, the defendant would tell them that he was "teaching them so that they would learn what it is like when they get older and have to deal with boys," and repeatedly told his daughters not to tell anyone. Two of the victims testified to one incident during which their father took turns sexually abusing them as they cried and struggled to pull him off. All four of the victims testified to being sexually abused in various rooms and on numerous occasions while they were living with the defendant in Washington, D.C. The victims finally disclosed the situation, after years of repeated abuse, to their older sister in August 2008.

The three youngest daughters are learning disabled and were, therefore, particularly vulnerable. The government was unable to bring charges associated with the sexual abuse of the oldest daughter due to the applicable statute of limitations at the time of the disclosure.

In announcing the jury's verdict, U.S. Attorney Machen praised the work of MPD Detectives James Goldring and Kim Holland. He also praised the work of U.S. Attorney's Office paralegal Eugena Johnson and legal assistant Nicole Lee. U.S. Attorney Machen specially commended the work of victim advocate Veronica Vaughan who worked closely over a long period of time with the victims of this case, along with Child Forensic Interviewer Karen Giannakoulis who conducted interviews with three of the victims. Finally, he commended Assistant U.S. Attorneys Mark O'Brien and Ari Redbord who prosecuted the case.